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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY International

SUBJECT Bitterness Against Germany Prevents Formation of an
all-European Acoustical Society/Organization of the
International Commission on Acoustics

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1. The International Congress on Electro-Acoustics in Delft, June 1953, was the first International Congress officially sponsored by the International Commission on Acoustics (ICA), but actually it drew its greatest support in organizational work from the acoustics scientists of the Netherlands. Prior to the Congress, C. W. Kosten, chairman of the Congress, and Netherlands representative on the ICA, had been encouraged to recommend the formation of a European Acoustics Society. At the opening session the ICA pointed out that the scientific team has taken the place of the individual worker in tackling scientific problems. The speaker mentioned the success of the American Society of Acoustics; described the function of international organizations as clearinghouses for the necessary cross-fertilization of ideas for progress in the science he called "New Acoustics"; gave recognition to the rapid growth of the international journal of acoustics, "Acustica"; and effectively gave ICA approval to the formation of a European Acoustics Society. However, the European group was not formed. Although the Dutch and Scandinavian delegates had seemed anxious for a European Society before the meeting, they decided definitely not to join a society which could be dominated by the Germans.
2. World War II is still fresh in the minds of the Dutch. Even in the presence of delegates to the International Congress on Electro-Acoustics, they took little trouble to conceal their hate for the German occupation forces. For a tour of the local radio station by members of the Congress, the Dutch Radio Union prepared a pamphlet describing the history of the Radio Union and its relationships with the government. The pamphlet dwelt on the hardships attendant on the German confiscation of the radio facilities and described the German atrocities with a bitterness that many of us thought was in bad taste. [REDACTED]

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3.

Norwegians too still had bitter memories of the occupation, and were determined not to be dominated by the Germans again. The Norwegian group said they would gladly join a truly international organization, but pointed out that the Germans were even taking over the International Congress on Electro-Acoustics. Unfortunately this was true, but what these people seemed to overlook was that the Germans dominated the Congress because of the quality and vigor of their research.

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4. Some progress towards international organization was made. On the last day of the Congress the ICA published a list of acoustics research groups and proposed a system of Acoustics Society meetings under the cognizance of UNESCO and in cooperation with the ICA. This system calls for:

- (a) ICA-sponsored International Congresses every three or four years.
- (b) International symposia on special topics sponsored by national groups but arranged in cooperation with the ICA to help in scheduling to prevent competing dates.
- (c) National society meetings.

5. It now looks as though a Scandinavian Society will be formed comprised of Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark. there is no language barrier between these countries as far as technical congresses are concerned, even if each scientist speaks in his native language. Of course, there is already a vigorous German Acoustical Society and the British are well organized. The French-speaking acoustical society hopes to draw membership from Italy and Switzerland as well as Belgium and France.

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6. As of August 1953, the International Commission on Acoustics recognized the following European acoustical societies:

<u>Austria:</u>	Wissenschaftliche Vereinigung "Ultraschall", Bad Ischl, President: Dr. <u>Eckel</u>
<u>France:</u>	Groupement des Acousticiens de langue française, P. <u>Chavasse</u> , Secretary, 24, Rue Bertrand, Paris. A. <u>Poch</u> , Chairman.
<u>Germany:</u>	Fachgruppe für Akustik im Verband der Deutschen Physikalischen Gesellschaften, R. <u>Ebert</u> , Secretary, Bundesallee 100, Braunschweig. E. <u>Meyer</u> , Chairman, Bürgerstrasse 42, Göttingen.
<u>Great Britain:</u>	Acoustics Group of the Physical Society of London, R. W. B. <u>Stephens</u> , Secretary, 1 Lowther Gardens, Prince Consort Road, London, S.W. 7.
<u>Italy:</u>	Gruppo acustica della Società Italiana di fisica, I. <u>Barducci</u> , Secretary, Piazzale delle Scienze 7, Roma.
<u>Netherlands:</u>	Geluidstichting, C. W. <u>Kosten</u> , Secretary, Mijnbouwplein 11, Delft
<u>Sweden:</u>	Svenska Akustiska Sällskapet, E. <u>Mattsson</u> , Chairman, 1 Radiotjäust, Stockholm C.

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Switzerland:

7. The International Commission on Acoustics has also recognized the Acoustical Society of Japan, Secretary, J. Igarashi. The Society now consists of about 600 members and publishes a quarterly journal. The president of the Acoustical Society of Japan (ASJ), Prof. K. Sato, attended the International Commission on Electro-Acoustics and the ASJ has been invited to participate in the international clearinghouse of notices and activities of the International Commission on Acoustics. It is planned to prepare a directory of all groups active in acoustics and to submit this directory for publication in "Acustica" and the "Journal of the Acoustical Society of America".

8. The following additional countries are known to have research centers in acoustics:

Argentina	Canada	Norway
Australia	Denmark	Portugal
Austria	Egypt	South Africa
Belgium	India	Spain
Brazil	Jugoslavia	Turkey

9. In addition to acting as a clearinghouse for the activities of the Acoustical Society, the ICA has given support to the following projects:

International Standardization

The Commission observed with interest the presentation, at a session of the Congress, of the programmes of the ISO/TC 43 (International Organization for Standardization, Technical Committee 43) and the IEC/TC 29 (International Electro-technical Commission, Technical Committee 29). These two groups are responsible for the establishment of international standards in all phases of acoustics. Presumably those topics that involve electro-acoustics will be handled under the IEC and all others under the ISO. It appears that these two groups will keep in close touch with each other to see that all necessary standardization is pursued and that needless duplication of effort is avoided. This cooperation is strongly encouraged by the Commission, whose only function in this area is to stimulate the fullest possible exchange of views on the needs for international standardization.

International Fellowships

The Commission plans to encourage more actively the awarding of fellowships and other arrangements for individuals to spend a period of research abroad. A Committee on Fellowships has been named, with Prof. E. Meyer, III, Phys. Institut der Universität, Bürgerstrasse 43, Göttingen, Germany, chairman, and a member of the Acoustics Society of America. This committee will keep informed on award opportunities and will write supporting letters, in the name of the commission, in behalf of candidates it has reviewed and deemed worthy. The first such candidate that came to the attention of the commission has just received a Fulbright fellowship to work at Göttingen for one year.

10. The International Commission on Acoustics will also announce the following symposia for 1954:

- (a) The German Acoustics Group (Fachgruppe für Akustik) plans an international symposium on structure borne sound for the fall of 1954.
- (b) An International symposium on recording to be held in France in April 1954.

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